(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) In the first 3 years of IX Plan i.e. from 1997-98 to 1999-2000, 8923 kilometres of track has been renewed.

Congestion at Secunderabad Railway Station

*680. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any long term plans to reduce congestion and difficult access at Secunderabad Railway Station in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the nearer entrance is not easy for travellers to reach;

(c) what steps are proposed to properly re-design the access area in Secunderabad;

(d) whether any discussions have been held with the Municipal authorities;

(e) if so, when were such discussions held; and

(f) what was the outcome?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is some congestion on the main entry side of station due to constantly increasing population pressure.

(c) The approach road to the main entry side is maintained by the Municipal Corporation. However, to facilitate easy access to the Station a second entry with a full fledged station building has been planned. The circulating area with booking office on the Bhoiguda side has already been provided as a part of this work. Landing of the Foot Over Bridge is also provided in the circulating area. A new Oliphanta road-under-bridge has also been commissioned which will ease the congestion further.

(d) No, Sir.

(c) and (f) Do not arise.